

JEWISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION UK

Looking back to the October 2019 Jewish Medical Association UK newsletter leaves one bemused. Our patterns of work, of participation, priorities and linkages, and indeed our way of life, all seem to have changed.

It seems a long time, too, since Pesach, when we wrote to all members, associates, patrons and supporters. The link to this letter can be found [here](#). It is not a surprise, but nonetheless upsetting, that we now face festivals at a time of incrementing illness, anxieties, and stress. Many people cannot celebrate with families and communities.

During Pesach the Association arranged for a meal to be sent (on request) to those doctors who were expected to be at work over the festival. Hopefully the need will not arise, but if necessary we will do so again over Sukkot....

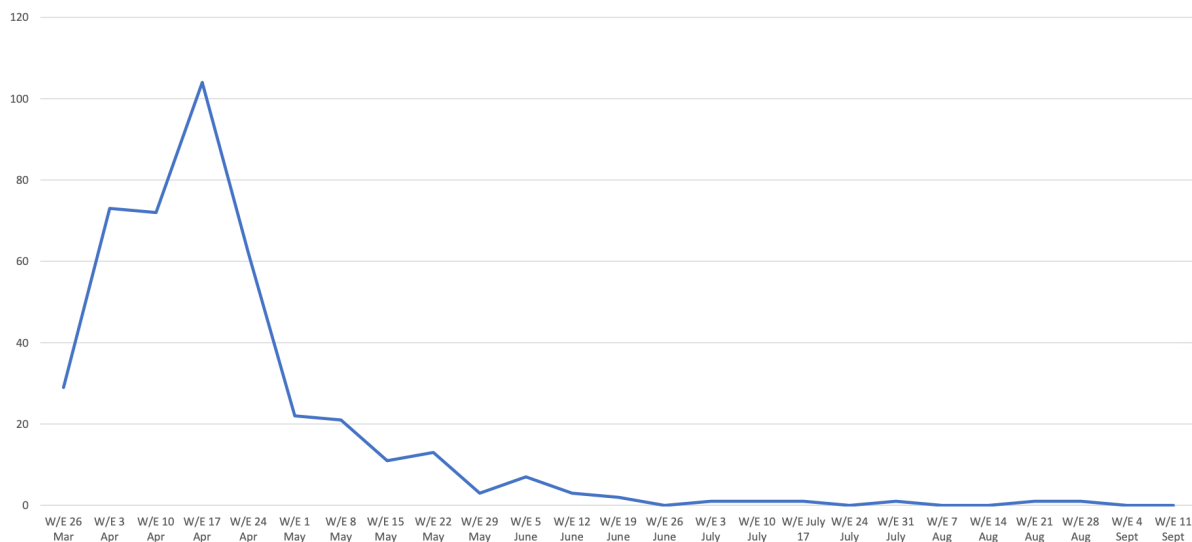
COVID-19: Experiences, Effects and Expectations

In the early stages of the Covid-19 pandemic the pressures were such that the Association held off communication. In early June we began to deliberate the best way to reflect, learn, and evolve (rather than mutater!) into the future....and the first step was to gain insights into the ideas and thoughts of our members and their patients.

To achieve this the plunge was taken into the Zoom era on the - rather self-evident - theme of Covid-19: Experiences, Effects and Expectations. This programme has been successful as judged by attendance and feedback. Technical glitches at the start have gradually been overcome. It has been made possible by the hard work of our Administrative Secretary, Hilary Cane, and by the supportive staff of Creative & Commercial.

Speakers thus far are Dr Ellis Friedman (Public Health), Mr Lawrence Wiseman (Patient), Dr Karyn Moshal (Paediatrics), Prof Marcel Levi (Chief Executive, UCLH), Prof Mervyn Singer (ICU, UCLH), Dr Mike Groszmann (Child and Adolescent Psychiatry), Dr Daniel Staetsky (Demography and Statistics), Prof Ora Paltiel (Israel), Dr Ian Goodman (General Practice), Prof Alan Salama (Nephrology), Dr Suzanne Joels (Psychogeriatrics) and Dr Adrian Tookman (Palliative Care). The recordings of their individual talks can be accessed [here](#).

Jewish Covid Mortality - Seven Largest Burial Societies



Obituaries

Two much respected and committed members of the Association died during the summer. Dr Barry Hoffbrand was a physician at the Whittington and UCL, and played an important role in the RCP and RSM; Dr Laurence Buckman has written an obituary which can be accessed [here](#). Dr Eddie Josse was a pioneering General Practitioner both in the UK and Europe, a police surgeon and expert, and involved in postgraduate education; Dr Simon Wiseman has written an obituary which can be accessed [here](#).

Pre-Covid-19 Events

London Presidential Lecture



In her lecture Prof Maralyn Druce spoke about “**Endocrine Medicine – Just two skills but it takes guts to develop them**”. She said that the two skills are thinking and explaining – the gut endocrine system is intrinsically important; thinking about it, and trying to explain the various interactions and their effects not only biochemically but also on clinical and behavioural patterns, has been her continuing research challenge. Further details of her career, research and educational achievements can be accessed [here](#).

Israeli Colorectal Surgeons Visit

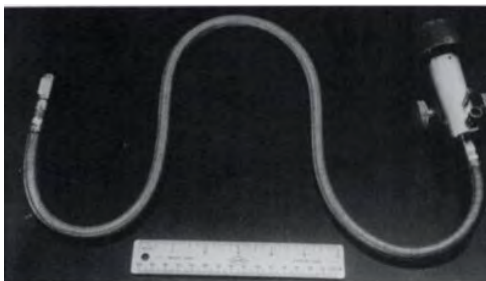


FIGURE 1.6 An early fiberoptic endoscope. (Courtesy of B. I. Hirschowitz.)

Prof Alex Deutsch brought 12 Israeli Colorectal Surgeons to the UK in the week before the pandemic struck. At the meeting they presented two Israeli neuroendocrine tumour patients, and this was followed by a panel discussion led by Prof Martin Caplin and Prof Druce on the theme of Gut Neuroendocrine Tumours – “NET: for any surgeon or not?”

Student Jewish Medical Association

Two new student leaders have now taken up their position for 2020-1: Shira Dworkin (UCL) and Anoushka Sharp (QMUL). Hadar Ben-Azri and Ariel Reingold are leading the group in Leeds. At present there are no requests for elective awards going to Israel (or indeed to other countries) due to Covid-19.

The Association extends best wishes to all for a healthy, happy and successful New Year, and wishes you well over the fast.